Road building by China to Mount Everest Base Camp

1069. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is building a road to Mount Everest Base camp;

(b) if so, the impact which would occur to the system of Himalayas; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to see that such development does not take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) the information is being collected which will be laid on the table of the House.

MCD and NDMC steps to control stray animals

1070. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MCD and NDMC are employing sufficient number of persons to catch stray cattle and bovine animals as the menace of dogs and monkey bites are on the rise;

(b) if so, whether the captured/dogs monkeys are being rehabilitated at such places from where they cannot again come to residential colonies;

(c) whether steps are being taken to ensure that their population in controlled through medical/surgical procedures;

(d) whether any State has done some pioneering work in this direction either from their expertise or through NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) NDMC has reported that sufficient number of persons has been deployed to catch stray cattle and bovine animals. MCD has informed that six teams of monkey catchers are presently working in MCD area who have trapped 1,540 monkeys during April to 13th November, 2007 and efforts are being made to engage more monkey catchers and 5 more teams will be engaged very soon. MCD has removed 11,575 and 6,768 cattle (upto October 2007) for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. The number of dogs sterilized, by MCD for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto October 2007) are 18,428 and 14,196 respectively.

(b) Stray dogs after sterilization and vaccination/immunization are released in the same locality from where they are picked up. The trapped monkeys are further being relocated to Bhatti Mines at Asola in South Delhi after medical examination. In order to restrict the return of the relocated monkeys to the residential colonies, a high wall in Asola Bhatti Mines is being constructed and adequate drinking water and food is being provided for monkeys by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(c) The stray dogs are sterilized by performing surgery and are being immunized to control the rabies. However, no surgical procedure is carried out for monkeys as the same are protected under Wild Life Protection Act.

(d) NDMC has reported that they are working in coordination with NGOs for implementing animal birth control programme. MCD has informed that Government of Himachal Pradesh